

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Amendment of Sections)	RM- 11331
74.1201, 74.1231, and)	
74.1232 of the Commission's)	
Rules)	

To the Commission:

Comments of Nickolaus E. Leggett, LPFM Petitioner

I am one of the original petitioners for the establishment of the Low Power FM (LPFM) radio broadcasting service (RM-9208 July 7, 1997 subsequently included in MM Docket 99-25). I am also a certified electronics technician (ISCET and NARTE) and an Extra Class amateur radio operator (call sign N3NL). I am an inventor holding three U.S. Patents. My latest patent is a wireless bus for digital devices and computers (U.S. Patent # 6,771,935). I have a Master of Arts degree in Political Science from the Johns Hopkins University. I am also one of the petitioners in the recent docket to establish a low power radio service on the AM broadcast band (RM-11287).

Local Programming on FM Translators

I am strongly in favor of this petition's concept of allowing FM translators to broadcast locally originated programming. This change in the rules would allow the extensive infrastructure of FM translators to be used to increase the availability of locally-originated programming. Even if only a

small fraction of translator owners provided local programming, it would be an increase in the availability of such programming.

A Basic Goal for the Commission

The Federal Communications Commission should work to increase local broadcasting by whatever technological means are available. The current broadcasting environment is strongly biased towards very large centralized media operations. The Nation needs a diverse set of media for the local origination of program content. The new LPFM broadcasting service and the proposed Low Power AM broadcasting service (RM-11287) can provide local broadcasting service to many communities. Other options such as Part 15 broadcasting and broadcasting on new spectra such as millimeter waves or light waves can further increase the options for local broadcasting. Local broadcasts on translators should be added to this mix of media for local broadcasting.

Advertising on Translators

Translators can broadcast local shows and local talent. In addition, translators can broadcast local advertisements from Mom and Pop stores and businesses that cannot afford conventional FM radio advertising. This freedom to advertise would enable many small businesses to survive the pressure from large corporations and chain stores. The local pizza parlor, barber shop, used book store, cleaners, dog groomers, maid service etc. would all benefit from having low-cost local advertisements available.

Translators and Internet Net Neutrality

At the present time, there is Congressional debate on the concept of Internet net neutrality and the future of opportunities for small organizations to provide service by means of the Internet. It is likely that the result of this debate will be less opportunity for small web casters to present their programs over the Internet. If this unfavorable result occurs, then it is even more important to allow FM translator stations to broadcast locally originated programs.

Protecting Low Power FM (LPFM) Broadcasters

Even though local broadcasting by translators is a useful option, translators should not be allowed to displace existing LPFM broadcasting stations. In addition, LPFM applications should have priority over translator applications. LPFM stations should have priority over translators because LPFM stations always broadcast local programming while translators would merely have the option of broadcasting some local programming. Indeed, many translators will not broadcast local programming at all.

Recommendation to the Commission

The Commission should examine the subject of local programming in terms of the full set of technologies that could be used for providing local programming. This petition should be seriously considered in this context.

Respectfully submitted,

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